

## **How The Lord Deals With Failure** (John 21:12-19)

**Proposition:** We all have failures, but how do we deal with them. Well in our text, the resurrected Lord Jesus deals with the failure of Peter and in doing so gives us insight into how he deals with our failures.

### **I. The Summary of Peter's Defeat** (Vs. 12-15b)

A. The Facets of the Summary (Vs. 12-15b)

B. The Focus of the Summary (Vs. 12-15b)

### **II. The Stirring of Peter's Devotion** (Vs. 15-17)

A. The Subject of Devotion (Vs. 15-17)

B. The Source of Devotion (Vs. 15-17)

### **III. The Shaping of Peter's Destiny** (Vs. 18-19)

A. A Telling Destiny (Vs. 11-12)

B. A Tending Destiny (Vs. 15-17)

C. A Testimonial Destiny (Vs. 18-19)

## How the Lord Deals with Failure (Jn 21:12-19)

Stephen Pile has written a book titled The Book of Failures. In it he writes about a 1978 fireman's strike in England. During the strike the British Army was called out to take over emergency firefighting. On Jan 14 they were called out by an elderly lady in South London to rescue her cat. They arrived w/ impressive haste, very cleverly and carefully rescued the cat, and started to drive away. But the lady was so grateful she invited the squad of heroes in for tea.

Driving off later with fond farewells and warm waving of arms, they ran over her cat and killed it. I have a feeling that there

has got to be a chapter in that book for Peter as well. Despite all of his passion and words of devotion we find that in the end Peter experienced a complete and utter failure. But failure is not isolated to Peter alone.

Truth be known all of us could take a page or two up in the Grand Book of failures. We all have failures, but how do we deal w/ them. Well in our text our resurrected Lord

dealt w/ the failure of Peter and in doing so gives us

## I. The Summary of Peter's Defeat - The

backdrop of this scene finds Peter and a handful of disciples returning to the old trade of fishing. These nets had been forsaken long ago.



from shore calls, fish are caught, Jesus is realized. dinner is

**A. The Facets of the Summary** - Here at this quiet dinner scene we begin to see many of the facets of Peter's failure begin to emerge. The fire of coals was a reminder of the fires of the High Priest's court. "Simon son of Jonas 'Simon' what happened to Peter the rock. Jesus asks 3 times 'do you love me?' This is a stinging reminder of the three denials concerning his master. The fish and the boats these are reminders of what was left behind. He was to be a fisher of men. What a summary of failure?

**B. The Focus of the Summary** - What is going on by all this? Is Jesus taking Peter's failure and hitting him over the head with it? He is gently bringing this failure to the surface to be confronted and dealt with. In our relationship with the Lord he will not allow us to sweep sin under the rug and not be dealt with. No the Holy Spirit has a way of bringing to light the sins so that they may be confessed and forgiven and forsaken. Otherwise we are prevented from proper usefulness and even <sup>judgment</sup> ~~become~~ <sup>become</sup>

**III. The Stirring of Peter's Devotion** -

The greatest motive for service is love. I serve and provide for my family because I love my wife + my children. I in this position because I love my lord.

1) ...gives us insight into how he deals with our failures.

1) ...you love me. But Lord you have my heart.

2) ...can be overcome by a distinct and devoted love for the  
Saviour who paid for the sin of our failure.



Here our Lord stirs the devotion of Peter and us as well

A. The Subject of Devotion - Jesus asks three very similar questions. With helpful study of the language we are given insight into what's going on. "Lovest thou me more than these?" boats or other men? Lovest the word is that agape love - a pure love as one author writes "that highest, holiest form of love" may be several weeks ago he may have ventured an equivocal yes. But today it is a temper Philo brotherly love - great fondness. Agape same. Final "Lovest thou me", Philo. Jesus uses, Peter was broken. I could never love you the way you love me. ①

B. The Source of Devotion - There is no doubt that Peter would play a foundational role in the in the Church. Yet if failure had consumed Peter a great majority of the book of Acts would have gone unwritten. But we see Peter, devoted thru miracles, successes thru testings and trial. What is the source of this devotion: A Love for the Lord Jesus. My pastor preached out of this text a sermon entitled "My Jesus, I Love thee or do I?" A great many failures can be overcome by a ②

III. The Shaping of Peter's Destiny - After sin is confessed, love is established then Peter's future is directed. Failure does not disqualify one from service



If that was the case Pentecost would be missing a preacher.

**A. A Telling Destiny** - This whole fishing scene was a reminder of Peter's Telling Destiny. Peter was to be a fisher of men not of fish. The shape of Peter's destiny was to resemble a pulpit not a pier.

There may have been times where by necessity fish had to be caught to propel the Telling Destiny but fishing was not to be the end. You are in a telling destiny.

**B. A Tending Destiny** - Feed my lambs, Feed my sheep. Here we see not only an evangelistic ministry but a pastoral ministry. He wasn't given an either/or but a both/and. He was given charge over a flock of God's people. You may not receive such a charge we are to edify one another, encourage one another, enrich one another's lives.

**C. A Testimonial Destiny** - Jesus previous words to Peter, Satan had desired to have you to sift you as wheat. And although his faith did not fail, a failure was felt. Here through the omniscience of the Lord Jesus the end result was seen. A death that would glorify God. Peter would fail again. Paul confronted him over hypocrisy. Yet in the end he was a success because he followed him.

**IV. Closing** - The true child of God can not simply place their failures in a back closet and forget about them. Our Lord brings them to the surface so that we may choose him over them.